

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented color processing method for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing method comprising:

calculating a color adjustment distance, which is ~~a~~ an Euclidean distance ~~on~~ in a color space between a representative color defined in the color space representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is ~~target~~ a target of the adjustment and also defined in the color space, using a computer on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

deciding, using the computer, a reproduction color in the color space expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction color being located in the color space between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein

the reproduction distance increases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is smaller than a certain value and decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain ~~the~~ certain value.

2. (Previously Presented) The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance.

3. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

calculating a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

in the calculation of the reproduction color, the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

4. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 3, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient is calculated on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

5. (Previously Presented) The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance is expressed by one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

6. (Previously Presented) The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient is constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than the certain value but the reproduction distance coefficient is expressed by a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than the certain value.

7. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

8. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

9. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

adjusting colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

10. (Currently Amended) A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:

a color adjustment distance calculation section ~~of a computer for calculating that~~ calculates a color adjustment distance, which is ~~an Euclidean distance~~ an Euclidean distance ~~in~~ a color space between a representative color defined in the color space representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is ~~target~~ a target of the adjustment and also defined in the color space, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

a reproduction color decision section ~~of a computer for deciding that~~ decides a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located in the color space between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein

the reproduction distance increases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is smaller than a certain value and decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a ~~the~~ certain value.

11. (Currently Amended) A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:

a color adjustment distance calculation ~~section~~unit of a computer for calculating that ~~calculates~~ a color adjustment distance, which is ~~an~~ a Euclidean distance on in a color space between a representative color in the color space representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is ~~target~~ a target of the adjustment and also defined in the color space, on the basis of the representative color and the target color;

a reproduction distance coefficient calculation ~~unit of a computer for calculating that~~ ~~calculates~~ a reproduction distance coefficient, which is used to calculate a reproduction color in the color space expressing the representative color of the specific region after color adjustment, on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient being a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color; and

a reproduction color calculation ~~unit of a computer for calculating that~~ ~~calculates~~ the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance coefficient, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient increases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is smaller than a certain distance and decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than ~~a~~ the certain value.

12. (Currently Amended) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a brightness adjustment coefficient calculation ~~unit for calculating that~~ ~~calculates~~ a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust the brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

the reproduction color calculation unit calculates the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

13. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient calculation unit calculates the brightness adjustment coefficient on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

14. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

15. (Previously Presented) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with a function of the color adjustment distance which takes a constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than the certain value, but is a differentiable and continuous function when the color adjustment distance is larger than the certain value.

16. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

17. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

18. (Currently Amended) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a color adjustment unit ~~for adjusting that adjusts~~ the colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

19. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a program readable by a computer, the program making the computer execute a color process for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of color adjustment in a color image, wherein the program making the computer execute a color processing comprising:

calculating a color adjustment distance, which is ~~an~~ Euclidean distance ~~on~~ in a color space between a representative color in the color space representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is ~~target~~ a target of the adjustment and also defined in the color space, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

deciding a reproduction color in the color space expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction color being located in the color space between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein

the reproduction distance increases with an increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is smaller than a certain value and decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than ~~a~~ the certain value.

20. (Currently Amended) A printer comprising:

a color processing device, including a computer, for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, wherein the color processing ~~apparatus~~ device includes:

a color adjustment distance calculation section ~~for calculating~~ that calculates a color adjustment distance, which is ~~an~~ Euclidean distance ~~on~~ in a color space between a representative color in the color space representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is ~~target~~ a target of the adjustment and also

defined in the color space, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

a reproduction color decision section ~~for deciding~~that decides a reproduction color in the color space expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located in the color space between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, ~~wherein~~ wherein the reproduction distance increases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is smaller than a certain value and decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a~~the~~ certain value.